

Hanging Shelf Is Beautiful And Moveable Soil Tests Sent To College

One of the most versatile types of shelf you can have is one that hangs on the wall of a kitchen, bedroom, front hall or, perhaps, a staircase landing. It may be traditional or modern in design, but this type of shelf is popular because it can be moved from wall to wall or room to room when you need more shelf space or a fresh

decorative note.

Thus it may start life in a child's room holding books, toys, or "treasures." When the kids are grown the shelf can fill a blank spot on the staircase wall or serve as a spice shelf in the kitchen. If it is well made and of relatively simple design it can fit into almost any environment.

Lumber from the western pine region is admirably suited to this type of project because it comes in ten different species, in clear grades or with knot formations, and it will respond well to a clear finish or to a wood stain. The Western Pine Association recommends that you use one or the other for true versatility. If you know that the shelf will always remain in a certain room then you might use a brush-on, wipe-off pigmented stain in a color that matches the room's decor.

This kind of shelf can be hung with leather thongs in a boy's room or colored braided cord in a girl's provided that it is small and doesn't carry too much weight. Otherwise, screw it to the wall with metal shelf brackets. You may have to use special bolts for this if your screws simply go into plaster and not a wooden upright. Your lumber dealer can tell you what is best in your case.

Oregon farmers sent nearly 5,000 soil samples to the Oregon State College soil testing laboratory for analysis last year, according to Dr. L. A. Alban, soil scientist.

The testing service tells a farmer how much fertilizer he needs to grow a particular crop on his soil. The standard \$2.50 soil test shows acidity of soil, and need for lime, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium.

Soil tests pay real dividends, Alban said. If a farmer doesn't apply enough fertilizer, he won't get maximum returns from what he does put on. But if he applies more than he needs, he's spending money unnecessarily. A soil test pinpoints the exact needs.

The number of farmers taking advantage of the soil testing service has increased steadily since the program began in 1953. Alban estimates that 1960 will see more than 6,000 samples tested. He expects the number to reach 10,000 by 1963.

Farmers who want fertilizer rec-

ommendations for the coming growing season should have soil tests made soon. Instructions for taking soil samples, and cartons in which to mail the soil are available at county extension offices. Urban home owners as well as farmers, may take advantage of the soil testing service, Alban added.

Meadow Mice Research Is Carried Out

Oregon's real-life Pied Piper is doing more than playing a tune to rid farmers of meadow mice. He's conducting long-term research near Klamath Falls to pinpoint years mice are expected to do most damage, and thus save money for Oregon agriculture.

Edward L. Hansen, Oregon State College biologist, is trying to discover as much as possible about habits of this pesky animal. By learning to predict ups and downs of meadow mouse populations, he hopes to save farmers from a heavy infestation like 1957 when mice cost the state's agriculture millions of dollars.

During peak population cycles, meadow mice can damage a great percentage of a crop, and also may damage range vegetation. When survival conditions are ideal, the mouse population increases rapidly.

In years when an increase is expected, spring would be the best time to start a control program because of breeding habits of the mice, he points out. Reducing cover probably will reduce their numbers, Hansen believes.

Mouse populations last year were quite low. Dry weather may have helped this.

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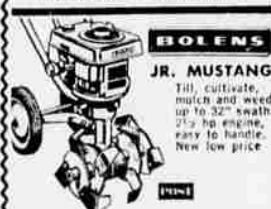
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